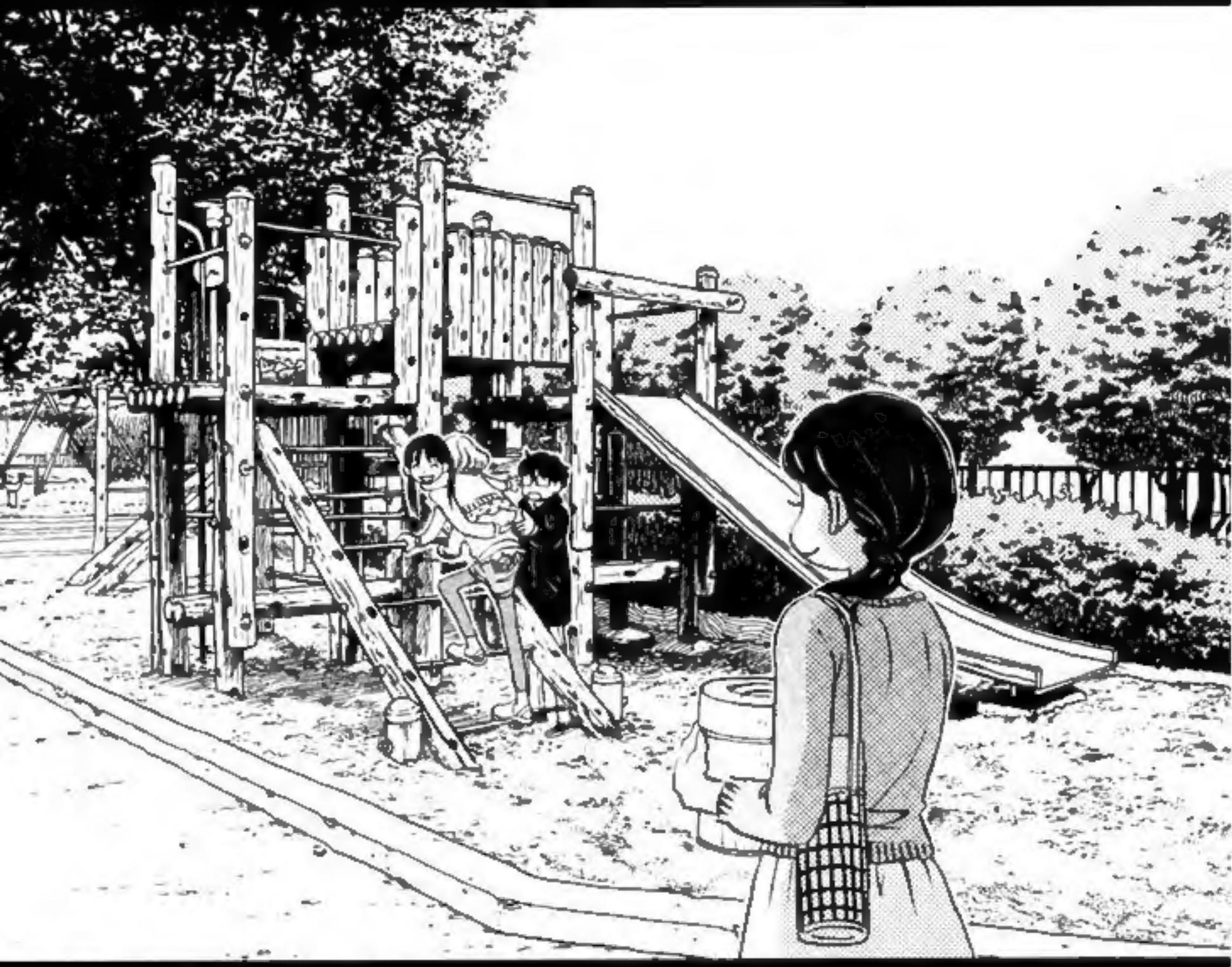

Chapter 37

Torrent

THIS IS HOW WE LAST LEFT THE BOARD.

NOW, SINCE KIRIYAMA'S JOINED US,

LET'S PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF.

WHAT'S THIS?

YEAH,

THIS WAS THE BOARD AT THE END OF THE LAST SHISHIOU TOURNEMENT WHEN THE CHALLENGER FELL.

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN ?

NOW, LET'S CONTINUE

.....

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE THE SAME BLOWOUT DEFEAT AGAIN.

YEAH,

THIS WEEKEND I'LL PLAY THE NEXT GAME IN TOKUSHIMA.

HUH? WHAT'S THAT?
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE ONE TO TALK SHIGETA,
YOU TALK A BIG GAME,
BUT YOU WOULD SPEND ALL YOUR TIME
CHECKING AND CONFIRMING THE CONDITIONS
UNTIL A SNIPER PUT A BULLET IN YOUR HEAD,
THE END.

I AM LOOKING AT THE PAWN ON 7-4 THOUGH.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN I TOOK OUT YOUR BISHOP ALREADY?

6-1 IS WIDE OPEN RIGHT NOW!

IF YOU LET YOUR BISHOP GET TAKEN YOU'RE GONNA BE IN TROUPBLE.

NO WAY

ESPECIALLY NOT THE BLACK PAWN AT 7-4

HITTING MY BISHOP DOESN'T HELP YOU HERE, DOES IT?

GULP...

IF YOU EVER WENT TO WAR YOU'D BE THE TYPE TO OVER DEPLOY YOUR MEN AND GET YOURSELF KILLED, HUH?

SO, WHY NOT GO WITH THE BLACK PAWN AT 7-4?

I'M TELLING YOU!

THE BLACK BISHOP AT 6-1 IS GONNA GET TAKEN BY THE WHITE PAWN AT 5-2

GULP

BEAM

OH?

AND LET ME TAKE YOU WITH MY PAWN ON 5-2 AND LEAVE YOUR ROOK ON 5-8 DEFENSELESS? SOUNDS FINE TO ME.

BUT RATHER THAN USE MY PAWN ON 7-4 TO TAKE YOUR GOLD GENERAL ON 64 TO SAVE MY BISHOP ON 6-1,
I THINK USING MY PAWN ON 3-5 TO TAKE YOUR BISHOP ON 7-1 IS THE SMARTER MOOVE.

koo koo koo

nya nya

White team

Black team

ZZZ

YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS ARE YOU?

HUH? YOU'D APPROACH MY GOLD GENERAL WHEN YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE PAWN ON 7-4?

OK; THEN WHAT IF I TAKE YOUR GOLD GENERAL ON 6-4 WITH MY BISHHOP ON 6-1?!

VRRRROOOAR

GOLD

WHIRL

WHIRL

※THERE ARE TOO MANY WORDS, THE PICTURE GETS LOST...

HATATATATA

HATATATATA

HOW ABOUT THE PAWN ON 5-6?

IF YOU LET ME TAKE YOUR PAWN ON 5-2 YOU'RE GIVING ME THE GAME!

WHAT, DO WOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT TOO?

How can you get out of that with your shitty game?

HOW ABOUT TAKING THE PAWN ON 7-4 WITH THE BISHOP ON 4-7?
OH DEAR, WHAT CAN YOU DOOOOO?

STUCK TO THE WALL

USED TO QUIET DOWN WILD CHILDREN IN THE CLASSROOM

AH, THAT'S FINALLY GOT YOU TWO QUIET AGAIN.

GLAD TO SEE THIS OLD SCENERIO STILL WORKS.

STALEMATE IN 7

YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR SEATS ONCE YOU SOLVE IT.

.....

Staaare

Finish

Stalemate in 45 moves

Silver captured

SO,

YEAH ?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, KIRIYAMA?

IF IT WERE YOU,

WOULD YOU AIM FOR THE BISHOP ON 6-1 OR THE PAWN ON 7-4?

HOW DO I PUT THIS,

THIS HERE,

ALLOWING THE BOARD TO GET THIS WAY

IT'S REALLY BAD ...

WHAT?!

DON'T JUST DISMISS THE PREMISE KIRIYAMA, THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A STUDY GROUP, ISN'T IT?

CAN YOU BE CLEAR FOR ONCE?

WHAT IS SO WRONG ABOUT MY STRATEGY HERE?

THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT OF RESEARCH, COMING UP WITH THEORIES BEFORE THEY COME UP IN A REAL GAME...

BUT MAN, I WOULD WANT TO AVOID ARRIVING AT THIS POINT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...

UM,

HOW TO EXPLAIN IT ...

UM... HOW TO SAY IT...

I WANT TO SAY, "IT GIVES ME A WRENCHING IN MY STOMACH"?

OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

.....

A WRENCHING FEELING?

"WRENCHING"?, KIRIYAMA, I THINK YOUR ABSTRACT WAY OF SPEAKING SHOWS HOW BRILLIANT YOU ARE, BUT THAT'S TOOVAGUE EVEN FOR ME.

SAY IT DAMN IT!!

OR SHALL I STIMULATE YOUR SPEECH CENTER FOR YOU?

HEY

PUT MY CACTUS BACK DOWN.

ﾆﾔﾘ

ﾆﾔﾘ

ﾆﾔﾘ

SORRY KIRIYAMA,
THIS IS A STUDY GROUP SO YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF MORE.
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN PRACTICING ALONE UP UNTIL NOW, SO THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU'RE USED TO...
BUT YOU CAN DO IT,
NOW
GO ON.
WELL,
FIRSTLY ...
WELL THE SILVER ON 3-7 IS STILL LEFT THERE, THAT ALONE IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME FEEL BAD ABOUT THIS...
uh
HMMM ... WELL, HOW DO I PUT IT?
UM...
mm
USING THE BLACK PAWN ON 7-4 SEEMS LIKE THE ONLY LOGICAL CHOICE TO MAKE RIGHT NOW...

I SEE ...
A WRENCHING FEELING ...
OH.
I SEE.

YOU SAY THERE'S A FLAW? NO WAY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YEAH, I WAS AT THE SAME REALIZATION AS THE STEAMED BUN OVER THERE AT FIRST.
he he
STEAMED BUN?! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, ASSHOLE?!
AH, YOU'RE BOTH SO OBNOXIOUS, SHUT UP FOR A WHILE.
sigh
YOU WANNA STEP OUTSIDE? GLADLY!

WELL, I'M OFF, SEE YOU LATER.

YEAH, I'LL LOOK OVER THE SCHEDULE AND GIVE YOU A CALL.

YOU BET!

HEY, KIRIYAMA

YEAH?

ARE YOU FREE TOMORROW?

YEAH,

I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY PLANS AFTER SCHOOL ...

CAN YOU COME AGAIN TOMORROW?

THIS TIME JUST YOU, ALONE.

SHIMADA ASKED ME.

THE NEXT DAY

WOBB

HEY,

SORRY I'VE BEEN HAVING A BAD FEW DAYS.

HAVE YOU BEEN SLEEPING?

I SLEPT

THAT IS TO SAY, I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.

LIKE A CORPSE IN A GRAVE.

YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK, KIRIYAMA?

OH,

I'LL MAKE IT

DO YOU WANT ANYTHING?

YEAH ... COFFEE, HOT COFFEE ...

SORRY, I ONLY HAVE INSTANT.

HERE YOU GO.

THANKS.

AND SORRY ...

MAXIM GOLD BLEND

Gear

I CAN ONLY LOSE ONE MORE GAME, IT'S ALREADY DO-OR DIE ...

SHHHH

IF I CAN JUST AVOID LOSING EVERY MATCH ...

NOW I WISH I HADN'T RAMBLED ON ABOUT

THERE ARE TWO CONDITIONS I HAVE TO CLEAR

THEN THE 6TH MATCH WILL BE IN MY HOMETOWN

MY HOMETOWN ...

UM, YOUR HOMETOWN ?

YEAH, YAMAGATA.

WHAT'S IT LIKE IN YAMAGATA ?

WELL, IT'S NOTHING BUT SNOW.

AND WHEN IT ISN'T SNOWING ?

THERE'S MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, LOTS OF FARM LAND

PRETTY MUCH NOTHING'S OUT THERE.

WELL IF THERE'S FARMLAND, THAT'S SOMETHING.

YES, BUT THE YIELD HAS GONE DOWN,

NOWADAYS THE FARMLAND IS ALL ...

HMM?

I COULDN'T HEAR HIM, BUT ...

SO,

THERE ARE PEOPLE I KNOW, THE FARMS I GREW UP ON, MY SCHOOL,

MY HOUSE,

THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING THERE, IT'S NOT EXCITING,

BUT,

THOUGH I SAY THAT,

I DON'T KNOW, THERE'S JUST SOMETHING

I NEED TO CLEAR MY MIND OF THOUGHTS ABOUT TOMORROW'S MATCH.

LET'S JUST PLAY A NORMAL GAME.

SHHHH

LET'S GO.

OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT MUST HAVE CROSSED HIS LIPS.

"THAT'S WHY I DO THIS"

NOW,

LET'S BEGIN.

W-

WHAT IS THIS?!

DOSH

HUH?

HUH?!

8-8 KING

HUH?

AH,

9-5 PAWN

3-8 ROOK

IT'S LIKE A DAM SUDDENLY BROKE

3-5 PAWN

SO SUDDEN SO MUCH FORCE

SAME PAWN

SAME BISHOP

4-2 BISHOP

7-3 KNIGHT

1-6 PAWN

I'M BEING SWEPT AWAY BY SHIMADA'S STRATEGY

3-7 SILVER

5-3 SILVER

I'VE BEEN ON THE RECIEVING END OF AN A-RANK PLAYER'S GAME...

IF I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS IS THE FIST TIME

I SEE,

YOU'RE BACK NOW

OH MAN

I FELL ASLEEP ...

I thought I was dying

COUGH

GOSH...

IT'S LIKE A MUDDY RIVER

EEEE

BETWEEN THE TWO OF US THAT'S ONE THING I CAN TAKE COMFORT THAT WE HAVE IN COMMON

I- NO, WE ARE PROFESSIONALS

MYSELF, STILL BELIEVING I HAD "SOMETHING TO OFFER" IF ONLY A LITTLE

TOLD HIM I WANTED HIM TO LET ME INTO HIS PRACTICE GROUP.

AT THE TIME

SHIMADA SAID I HAD "SOMETHING HE COULD USE TO HIS ADVANTAGE" WHEN HE INVITED ME TO JOIN HIM.

SO,

THAT DAY IT STUCK IN MY MIND

"THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK THIS GUY."

GASP

SPLASH

UNTIL I CAN GET THE ANSWER,

OK...

The next day Shimada set off for Tokushima

ALL I CAN DO IS HOLD ON

FOR DEAR LIFE, AT ALL COSTS

To raise the curtain on round 3 of the Shishiou Title match

Chapter 37 The end

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

Manabu Senzaki's Lion Shogi Column 2

written by manabu senzaki*

The truth about technical committees Research? Battle?

There are many ways to study the multitude of shogi techniques. There are two basic techniques to acheiving victory: "Tsumeshogi"* and the "Kifu Pairing"*. Although these two are the most basic, there are a number of "mating problems" that players take advantage of in order to secure victory. From a mathematical point of view, there are some interesting shogi problems that many folks like to study.

For professional players, though, any kind of victory will do. As the level of your opponent increases, at some point in your career you do need to study battle techniques.

And that is how the "research" groups for shogi came into being. In it, many players practice playing the game, taking careful notes on the various piece positions and strategies that can be exploited to secure a victory. Often times the parameters during these sessions change - such as finding methods by which you can win in the fewest number of moves, or by securing victory by exploiting certain manuevers with certain pieces. Often times the study groups are in sets of four players, but lately it has been popular to play "base" style, with just two players involved. That is where the current naming convention of Player vs. XX has come into being.

Since the concept of such research areas began, they have been packed with many young people, all looking to make a name for themselves by discovering new techniques. The research clinics last between 10 days and a month at a time, all packed full of younger players. And the number of private research groups have been increasing all over the place, despite the exclusive nature of their study.

Of course, the groups have developed a name for themselves too. Often times members will proudly display the member of the research groups they are associated with (such as the Manabu Senzaki Group), to promote the name in the field. Groups that meet on Mondays might reflect that in their name as well, by putting the word "Moon" somewhere in the group title. The number of research groups is dizzying. Lately groups have developed blogs to discuss their findings, and these blogs have become closely tied in prestige to the groups who run them. Some research clinics are so organized that they rent office space for meet ups, and to host prestigious events and fan gatherings (Like the Kaiji Group).

It's natural for there to be some noise when a large gathering of young people join together, but it's a bit out of place during shogi meet ups. Nevertheless, it's a common phenomenon - and after the research groups the members do often go out drinking or to enjoy other forms of entertainment. Not the kind of behavior you'd expect from people carrying out 'serious research'...but maybe the lighthearted nature of it isn't such a bad thing.

Tsumeshogi is a famous shogi problem, wherein the goal is to checkmate the opponent's king

Kifu Narabe is a method of play by recordkeeping, where you win by the number of successful moves you achieve before checkmating the opponent's king